

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Seventh Annual General Meeting of Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London W.1, on Thursday, July 27th, 1933, at 3 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following Councillors were present: Miss M. Breay and Miss A. M. Bushby, Vice-Presidents; Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss H. G. Ballard, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss G. Le Geyt and Miss I. Macdonald.

The President called on the Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, to read the notice convening the Meeting. This done, and Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Seventh Annual Report of the Council and the Audited Accounts for 1932-1933.

The President then presented the Seventh Annual Report of the Council for 1932-1933.

It was proposed by Miss Jessie Holmes, seconded by Mrs. Barnett, and carried, that the Report be received.

Miss Jessie Holmes considered that the Report was an instructive, constructive and inspiring one.

Miss M. Breay stated that, having been away all the year, she was impressed with the tremendous amount of work that had been done, and expressed her gratitude to all those who had accomplished so much.

The Report was then adopted.

Financial Report.

The President apologised for the absence of the Treasurer, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, but, having put off the Annual Meeting for a fortnight, owing to the I.C.N. Congress, he had been compelled to leave London before that date. The President then presented the Audited Accounts for the past year.

Miss Villiers expressed the opinion that it was very satisfactory, considering hard times, that the balance this year was rather larger than last.

On the proposal of Miss Jessie Holmes, seconded by Miss Kent, the Financial Report was adopted.

Appointment of Auditor.

Miss Ryan moved:—

“That Mr. H. Rendall Gothard be appointed Auditor for the College for the ensuing year.”

This was seconded by Miss Elma Smith, and unanimously adopted.

Thanks to the Treasurer.

Miss Cochrane, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Treasurer, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, said she thought the Meeting would wish her to say that they were very disappointed that Dr. Bedford Fenwick could not be with them to-day, and she proposed that a letter be sent to him expressing once again their sincere gratitude to him for his great work for the financial side of this College. They all knew how difficult it was in these days to maintain a balance on the right side, and might congratulate themselves on having someone so very able to take such a disinterested and generous part in the financial questions of the College. She wished to propose a resolution thanking Dr. Fenwick very much for his continued interest in the College.

This was seconded by Miss D. K. Graham, and passed with acclamation.

Congratulations to Miss Breay.

Miss Kent proposed a very hearty vote of congratulation and pleasure to Miss Breay that she was able to be with them once again, coupled with hearty thanks for all the work she has done in the past. She was sure everyone present was delighted to see her among them. This was agreed with acclamation.

Miss Breay thanked Miss Kent for her very kind words, and said that it had been a real support and happiness to her during her illness to have the sympathy, kindness and affection she had received from members of the College.

Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the Chair, Miss S. A. Villiers, J.P., said that she would like to take the opportunity of warmly congratulating Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on behalf of the College, as she was sure it would be the wish of them all, on the honour bestowed upon her by the French Government by the award of the Silver Medal of the Assistance Publique, presented to her by His Excellency the French Minister of Public Health, and on receiving in Brussels the “ruban de Chevalier de l'Ordre de Leopold,” conferred upon her by His Majesty the King of the Belgians, and presented to her by His Excellency M. Paul Hymans, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It was especially appropriate that this “ruban de Chevalier” of the Order of Leopold, which is really an Order of Knighthood, and she understood one of the most esteemed on the Continent of Europe, should have been conferred on Mrs. Fenwick, for throughout her long professional life she had never considered her own interests, but had worked for the reform and organisation of the Nursing profession, and opposed every proposition inimical to its welfare, with dauntless courage.

Miss Macdonald, seconding, congratulated Mrs. Fenwick, and English nurses generally, on this singularly great honour that had been conferred upon her. The insignia of the Order was very beautiful, and its beauty was enhanced by the fact that it was given by the glorious and chivalrous King of the Belgians, and probably at the instigation of his noble and intellectual Queen. The part of the sowers is not an enviable one, and usually it is the reapers who are honoured, but in connection with what Miss Villiers had said about the Order of Knighthood, she felt that the President had received her honour for her courage on the mental battlefield. These congratulations were supported with acclamation.

The President, in reply, expressed thanks, and emphasised that the recognition, though bestowed upon her as Founder of the International Council of Nurses, was not so much a personal one as a recognition of the wonderful work it had already accomplished for the health of the world.

The International Council of Nurses was recently received with gratitude and acclamation both in France and Belgium, and would, she felt sure, continue to advance and uphold the high ethical standards on which it had been founded.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)